GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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Drawn by A. H. Bumstead. © *National Geographic Society.*

A LONG, CROOKED LINE: THE HISTORIC UNITED STATES-MEXICO BOUNDARY.

(See Bulletin No. 3.)

Some of the wildest and least-known regions of our country are piled up against this border. From the Gulf of Mexico to El Paso, along the Texas frontier, the Rio Grande forms the boundary; thence to the Pacific coast the line is marked by monuments of stone and iron, so set that one is supposed to be visible from another.

DO YOU WISH YOUR BULLETINS CONTINUED?

Requests for the Geographic News Bulletin must be renewed if you asked for them in February, 1922. If you desire the Bulletins continued please notify The National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C., promptly. The blank following Bulletin No. 4 may be used.

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Magic Torches of Baku

ONCE it was gold which nations fought for. Today oil is more prized than much fine gold. Industrial civilization depends upon energy, and as the internal combustion engine shoulders out the steam engine, oil emerges as the great energy-source of the twentieth century. This might well be called the oil age.

Baku is a comparatively obscure city, but its location in the midst of one of the world's richest oil fields makes it the Tampico of the Near East.

Once the skies above Baku were illuminated by the "eternal fires" of burning oil. Near the spot where Zoroastrian or Parsi priests guarded the sacred flames which burned for more than a score of centuries, press dispatches occasionally report that modern wells are ablaze. This waste means an inestimable loss.

Before the time of the Saracens, Baku was noted for its natural gas and sacred fires. At Surakhani, from the days of Zoroaster to 1879, the colorless flames of naphtha gas were never extinguished. There a temple of the fire-worshipers, built in the time of Marco Polo and restored in the time of Shakespeare, can still be seen. The lighting of naphtha gas is no longer allowed here nor on the waters of the Caspian at Bibi Eybat. Fireworshipers on pilgrimage to Baku in the days just preceding the American Revolution had the tradition that the fires of Surakhani had begun to burn soon after the flood and that they would continue to burn until the end of the world.

From Fire Temples to Riches

When, in 636 A. D., Arab hosts appeared in Persia and fireworshipers became Moslems under the sword of the Prophet, large numbers of Zoroastrians fled to India. Their great Tombs of Silence on the slopes of Malabar hill in Bombay, where loathsome vultures await their gruesome opportunity as consumers of corpses, stand as present day reminders of political and religious forces which removed the Parsis from their ancestral homes and placed them in control of modern finance at the gateway to India.

The modern city of Baku is a combination of the new and the old, of the East and the West. Since the establishment of the Azerbaijan republic and the selection of Baku as its capital, some changes have been made. But in general, Baku is what it was before the war.

In the spring of 1918 there was sharp fighting between the Christians and the Tatars for control of the region. At this time a large part of the Tatar section was destroyed by shell fire from the Caspian. The romantic Kis-Kale or Virgin Tower, which the Tatars used as an observation post, still bears the marks of shell fire which, however, failed to do serious damage to Byzantine walls. The ancient walls of the old Tatar citadel bear pock-mark lines which join the apertures in the battlements and which show where Russian and Armenian machine guns sprayed the ramparts and drove the Tatar fighters from their best points of vantage. Then came the British, with a small force

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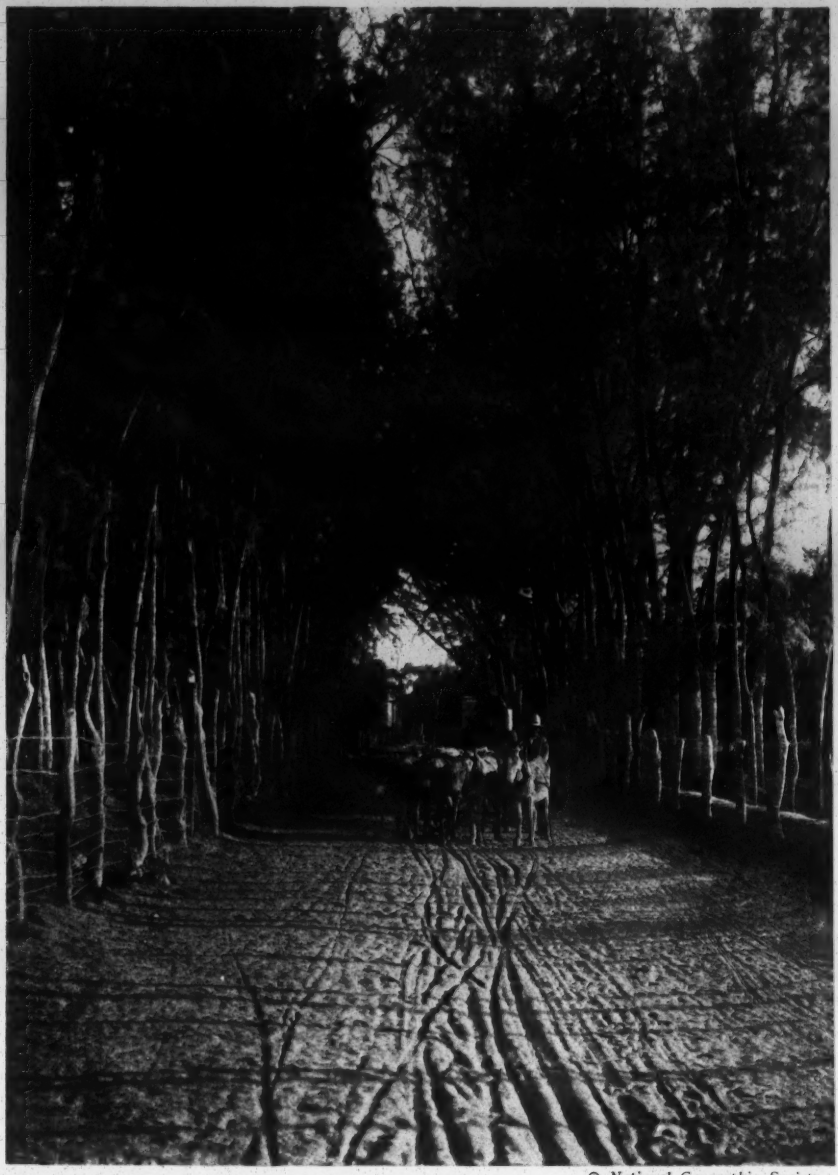

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A SHADY LANE ON A HACIENDA IN SONORA

Small farms are almost unknown in Mexico. The haciendas are vast landed estates embodying many features of the medieval feudal system. Until a few years ago, the haciendas were in the hands of 6,000 persons among a population of nearly 15,000,000. Some of these estates extended over scores of square miles and had as many as fifty miles of irrigation ditches within their bounds.

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The Geography of Hats

NO sooner have winter bonnets emerged than milliners begin their hunt for spring suggestions. The idea, and not the hat, most decidedly is the thing in women's headgear. Yet the hat itself is as old as history.

Perhaps the origin of the hat was the fillet, which was in almost universal use among smooth-haired peoples to keep back their stray locks. We have made additions from time to time in both horizontal and vertical directions until the creations worn in New York and Paris have come about, as well as the picturesque hats and caps worn with various national costumes, for fickle Fashion makes her influence felt wherever people live.

By His Hat You Will Know The Persian

In Persia the headgear worn proves very useful to a stranger as well as to the natives in identifying both the residence and the social standing of the wearer. The Kurds in that country wear a hat which looks like a huge inverted black coffee-pot bound around with a gay silk handkerchief. The Bakhtiaris, who live in the mountains near the British oil fields, wear a white felt hat that looks like a preserving kettle. The peasant or artisan wears a rough felt dome, the merchant or student the black pill-box, the porter a skullcap, the police officer a white lamb's-wool hat, and the ecclesiastic a cushionlike turban.

In the Holy Land, too, the hat is indicative of the station of the wearer. The Bedouin, the dweller in the "houses of hair" in the desert to the south, east and northeast, wears a large flowing scarf of silk or cotton, called the "kefeeyah," bound round his head by a twisted rope of goat's or camel's hair, generally about two inches thick.

The Turkish soldiers of Bagdad during the World War, though they adopted a uniform much like that worn by British and American soldiers, retained the kefeeyah, which artists call the most picturesque headdress worn by men. The fellah, or farmer of Palestine, wears a turban consisting of four parts, a small white felt skullcap, over this another skullcap of white cotton, which in turn is surmounted by a red cloth fez with a large black tassel, and about the whole a scarf or shawl. Most of the Apostles belonged to this class.

Turban Worn by Farmer

The third class in the Holy Land, the merchants, artisans, teachers, scribes, and governing officials, wear a turban similar to that worn by the farmers, except that the scarf is larger, cleaner, of lighter and more delicate colors and materials.

An enormous chignon made of sheep's wool is worn by the nuns of the Ta-Tshang Nunnery of Tibet, which lies in one of the most desolate and wind-swept spots imaginable.

Much of the charm of the Turkoman of Transcaspia is due to his huge

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from Enzeli. But they soon withdrew, leaving a badly mixed problem to find its own solutions.

The Baku oil fields in 1917, in the midst of war and revolution, produced nearly 50 million barrels of oil. But during the winter of 1917-18, labor troubles and the closing of the 540-mile pipe line to Batum on the Black Sea reduced the output. Political and social unrest have demoralized the oil industry which in Baku had reached a high degree of efficiency.

Baku Riches Furnish Peace Prizes

During the troubles in 1918, there were frequent threats by various factions that the wells of this famous region would be fired to keep them from falling under foreign control.

Baku was the field in which Alfred B. Nobel, already noted as the inventor of dynamite and for his success as a manufacturer of explosives, gained the fortune which on his death was partly devoted to the establishment of the Peace Prize and the almost equally famous prizes for distinction in physical science, in chemistry, in medical science and in literary excellence. Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root and Woodrow Wilson have been recipients of the Peace Prize founded on profits from Baku oil. Other Americans who have been honored with Nobel prizes are Albert Abraham Michelson, for his researches in the velocity and qualities of light; Theodore W. Richards for his study of atomic theories; and Alexis Carrel, for his success in suturing blood vessels and in the transplantation of human organs.

Bulletin No. 1, February 19, 1923.

A STUDY IN HEADGEAR OF MEXICO

With two men seated and the woman standing this seems like one of those "What's-Wrong-With-This-Picture" illustrations for a book of etiquette. One of the men at the table is a public scribe. Where illiteracy is high the public letter writer is an important functionary.

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The Rio Grande: Rightly Named Once a Year

THE Rio Grande River, between Texas and Mexico, which, in the spring, usually gives a realistic imitation of the Mississippi on a rampage, is normally so shallow and sluggish that immigration agents and customs officers are kept busy "shooing" back Mexicans who would enter the United States by the simple and informal procedure of wading in.

It is hard for the Mexico-bound traveler to realize under normal conditions that the ribbon of water meandering through a broad bed of sand is the stream that in Spanish means "The Great River." But once a year at least, and sometimes oftener, the Rio Grande fully lives up to its name.

The loam banks of the lower Rio Grande and its broad, fertile valley, covered with a heavy growth of the thorny mesquite—half shrub and half tree—was long considered a wilderness and given over to deer, wild pigs, armadillos and jack rabbits. Then came ranchmen to graze great herds of beef cattle among the feathery sea of green. Large areas somewhat removed from the river still are given over to cattle raising.

A New San Joaquin Valley

But near the stream pumping stations and irrigation canals have come into existence in recent years, and each spring and summer thousands of carloads of watermelons, cantaloupes, onions, cabbage, and other vegetables steam north from the region to help feed the more northern portions of the country. Therefore this region, near the warm Gulf of Mexico and barely outside the tropics competes with Florida and the Imperial Valley in producing early crops.

Still more recently another development has taken place which promises to make the Rio Grande a second San Joaquin Valley. Between a million-and-a-half and two million citrus fruit trees have been planted, and in the winter of 1921-22 the first carloads of oranges and grapefruit were shipped out.

A Shot Like That at Concord

Historically the Rio Grande has held a prominent place. It was one of the chief land-marks in the famous expeditions of the Spanish explorers who pushed up into Texas and on to New Mexico and California four centuries ago. Later it became a sort of Southern Concord; for if the shot fired in Massachusetts in April, 1775, was "heard round the world," a shot fired on the banks of the lower Rio Grande on another April morning 71 years later by General Zachary Taylor's soldiers might be said to have been heard over an area of half a million square miles. That area was added to the United States as a result of the shot; for it brought on the Mexican War which resulted in the annexation of what is now California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. In addition this skirmish near the mouth of the Rio Grande led to the confirmation of the annexation of Texas which had brought an additional quarter million square miles under the American flag.

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and fantastic cap made of shaggy sheep's wool, two or three times as large as his head, which he perches at a characteristically rakish and independent angle.

Looks Like Football Gear

The Arab woman of Oman wears a peculiar headdress that to the American mind suggests "blinkers," since it fits around her eyes and down her nose from its bridge to its tip after the fashion of football gear.

The Hindu woman's dress is made glorious by the sari, as distinctive a touch in her attire as is the mantilla of the Spanish lady. She drapes it about her body for a skirt, allows its graceful folds to pass over her shoulders and head, where by a trick of moving it before her luminous eyes when the inspiration prompts she makes it an instrument of coquetry.

The children and young girls of Savoy wear little caps in shape like those an American baby wears, except that the turned back frill stands out over the face at the top. They are made of vivid red and blue or blue and green combinations and are tied under chins with a ribbon.

Turkish Women Adopt Hood

When the Osmanli Turkish woman goes on the streets she wears a garment enveloping her whole person which resembles a scanty double petticoat made of any kind of cloth. The upper part is drawn hoodwise over her head and fastened under her chin. Her face is then completely hidden by a small square of dark-colored silk or muslin. Despite the fact that there is a tendency to do away with the cloak worn by Turkish women, it is still used to a great extent in the towns and some Christian women living in close proximity to Moslems have been forced to adopt the attire.

The Bulgarian woman wears a little round skullcap covered in gold braid with a long fringe hanging down the back which she covers with a large white scarf embroidered around the edges and fastened to the cap with innumerable ornaments and strings of coins. Everyone is familiar with the cute little white Dutch cap with its becoming flaps on the side, and knows the grace with which the Spanish lady wears her mantilla.

A Bow of Black Ribbon

The Alsatian woman wears a huge bow of black ribbon on her head. Occasionally you see a red or a plaid ribbon and sometimes it is ornamented with large bright flowers. The women of the Canali valley wear a snowy-white starched cap, and the Herzegovinian women in Ragusa wear fascinating long white lace veils attached to tiny red caps, which they decorate during festivals with bright yellow marigolds. The Sardinian farmer wears an enlarged edition of the Scotch cap, which serves him not only as a head covering but as a lunch bag from which he will take a loaf of bread at noon, and on which he occasionally sleeps at night.

The Wallachian farmer affects a small derby, smaller than Charlie Chaplin's well-known "lid," which he often adorns with a wreath of flowers. The elegant Saloniki dame wears a flat covered frame that could scarcely be termed a hat. It is usually crowned with an oval gilt plaque ornamented in seed pearls, and invariably has a fringed tail of dark green silk, also ornamented with a similar plaque, in which she keeps her hair.

But in one particular the peasant woman of Russia has the advantage of all of us. She wraps about her head one of those soft beautiful Persian or Cashmere shawls which is generally richer in texture and color than any creation of a Fifth Avenue milliner.

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The New Map of Africa

AREAS in Africa affected by the Treaty of Versailles are even more extensive than those so affected in Europe, so that the student of geography finds it necessary to reconstruct completely his ideas concerning African colonial possessions.

More than a million square miles of territory in Africa—one-eleventh of the entire continent—belonged to Germany in 1914. Today, these vast regions are being administered under mandates exercised by Great Britain, France, and Belgium.

French Accretions Larger Than France

A recent map of the National Geographic Society shows that, as a result of the World War, the French have added to their control mandated areas considerably larger than all of France in Europe. The Tri-color now flies over more territory in Africa than does that of any other nation, French colonies, protectorates, and mandates having an aggregate area which exceeds by nearly 80,000 square miles that of the entire United States, including Alaska and all our insular possessions.

The map shows more than 735,000 square miles of territory transferred from German sovereignty to British mandates (413,000 square miles to Great Britain proper, and 322,000 square miles to the Union of South Africa). From the Empire's territorial accretions, however, must be deducted the 350,000 square miles which until recently constituted the British protectorate in Egypt.

Only Three Countries Independent

It is interesting to note that only three countries in Africa—Liberia, Egypt, and Abyssinia, with a bare 741,000 square miles of territory—are independent. The remaining millions of square miles of the second largest continent, comprising more than one-fifth of the earth's land surface, are ruled by European nations.

The acquisition of colonial territory in Africa took place, in the main, during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. At the beginning of that century, France had a foothold on the west coast near the Senegal River; Portugal was established in lower Guinea, on the west coast, and in a small district opposite the island of Madagascar, on the east; while Great Britain's chief interest lay in Cape Colony, which had been taken from the Dutch during the Napoleonic wars.

Germany Late in Acquiring Colonies

Germany did not embark upon a colony-acquiring policy until 1882, when a Colonial Society was formed to promote lectures and to establish a colonial museum in Berlin. Bismarck was won over to the scheme and German traders began to establish stations along the west coast of Africa.

One of the most active agents in Germany's colonial enterprise was a Bremen citizen, Herr Luderitz, who acquired, by treaties with natives, a small area around Angra Pequena on the west coast, north of the Cape Colony settlement. He

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Part of the region inundated when the Rio Grande rises was known to thousands of doughboys during the mobilization along the Mexican border shortly before the United States entered the World War. Port Isabel, almost at the mouth of the Rio Grande, came into newspaper fame in the fall of 1920 when Senator Harding, having just finished the strenuous campaign which took him to the White House, went there for big game fishing.

Bulletin No. 3, February 19, 1923.

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A "GREAT STONE FACE" ON EASTER ISLAND. **(See Bulletin No. 5.)**

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Easter Island: Tiny Stage For World Mystery

IF EASTER ISLAND had sunk beneath the ocean as it was rumored to have done at the time of the recent destructive earthquake shocks in Chile, this final dropping of the curtain on the island might have gone some way toward solving its mystery; for this tiny bit of land with its unique gigantic statues is shrouded in mystery and has remained since its discovery one of the world's unsolved riddles.

One theory has been that it represents the last pinnacle of an ancient Pacific "Atlantis" which disappeared beneath the waters many centuries ago—a theory to which a disappearance of the island might obviously lend support.

Far From Everywhere

Situated 2,000 miles west of South America and almost an equal distance from other Pacific islands, Easter Island is one of the most isolated inhabited regions on the globe. Its greatest length is less than 15 miles and its greatest width about seven, but its triangular shape gives it an area of only 50 square miles. Many an island so small has gone practically unnoticed; but former inhabitants unwittingly "advertised" Easter Island by setting up huge images along its beaches; and to geographers and students of human institutions and activities it is as famous as any island of the Seven Seas.

The mystery of Easter Island became recognized when Dutch navigators discovered it on Easter morning, 1722, and reported that hundreds of strange stone figures of men more than 30 feet high stood everywhere about its margins, their backs to the sea. The natives had only the crudest of tales to account for these images which evidently had been fashioned ages before.

Recent study has shown that the images were mounted on terraces below which the bodies of the dead were exposed and often buried. But whence came the idea for such statues on this isolated island, and how some of them weighing many tons were moved and set in place by the natives, have proved baffling enigmas.

Gigantic Statues Wear Hats

The statues were carved from volcanic lava on the slopes of an extinct volcano. Scores of them still remain in and near the quarries. Others have been moved various distances, some remaining horizontal, others placed in an upright position. Some were moved—the natives say by magic—for miles across the island. Altogether nearly 200 of the huge figures now are visible, and others are believed to have been buried in landslides. The largest standing statues are 32 feet high, but one still reclining in its quarry measures 64 feet in length. On the heads of many of the figures were placed great cylindrical "hats" of a different colored stone, each weighing several tons.

Easter Island, discovered by the Dutch and for a while possessed by the Spanish, now belongs to Chile, but for long periods there has been no civil

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demanded German protection; Bismarck granted it, and in 1884 the German flag was for the first time authorized to fly over colonial property in Africa. Luderitz's name is perpetuated in that of a small town on the coast.

How German Holdings Have Been Converted

To the Union of South Africa has been entrusted the mandate over German Southwest Africa; Great Britain has fallen mandatory heir to German East Africa, now known as Tanganyika Territory, to a strip of Togoland (13,514 square miles) lying on the east bank of the Volta River and to a portion of the Cameroons (34,750 square miles) bordering on her possessions in southeastern Nigeria.

France has assumed the mandate over the major portions of Togoland (20,154 square miles) and the Cameroons (270,270 square miles).

Belgium's share in mandate responsibilities over Germany's former African colonial empire consists of the territory lying between Lake Tanganyika and Lake Victoria, known as Ruanda and Urundi—some 19,000 square miles.

The territorial interests of European countries in Africa since the mandate adjustments are represented by the following statistics.

France, 4,474,000 square miles—more than twenty times the area of the home country; Great Britain, 3,854,600 square miles—more than thirty times the area of the British Isles; Belgium, 928,900 square miles—more than eighty times the area of the governing country; Portugal, 927,200 square miles—equal to twenty-six Portugals-in-Europe; Italy, 591,200 square miles—more than four times the size of the governing country; and Spain, 128,100 square miles—about two-thirds the size of the home land.

One of the most interesting features of the New Map of Africa compared with that published by The Society several years ago is the remarkable development of the continent's railways. The lines under construction are being completed so rapidly that on two occasions during the publication of the Map, which required three months, it was found necessary to stop the presses and change the lines from "proposed" to "finished" railroads.

Bulletin No. 4, February 19, 1923.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the Geographic News Bulletin were made for the year ending with a February, 1923, issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

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Chilean representative in residence. A Chilean company operates a cattle and sheep ranch on the island which supports a luxuriant growth of grasses. About once a year a ship calls, leaves supplies and takes away wool and hides. The cattle are killed for their hides alone, and the surplus meat is thrown away.

Used For Base By Germans

Only about 200 natives, Kanakas, now live on the island, but it is supposed to have supported several thousand inhabitants in the past. Peruvian slave traders kidnapped close to 1,000 at one time during the past century. Since then there has been practically no tribal organization.

Easter Island played its part in the World War and evidently had figured for years in German naval plans over against "der Tag." German vessels from all ports of the Pacific quietly assembled there in the summer of 1914 preparatory to united action under Admiral von Spee. But it was a rendezvous with death. From there the assembled fleet sailed to its destruction by a British squadron off the Falklands.

Bulletin No. 5, February 19, 1923.

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TWO TEKKE TURKOMANS ON THE STEPS OF THE MILITARY MUSEUM AT GEOK TEPE. THEIR HATS ARE APT TO REMIND AN AMERICAN BOY OF A VILLAGE CORNET BAND.